

Maximilian & his wife Carlota had become the Emperor & Empress of Mexico. They tried to retain power for Napoleon, but Benito Juarez kept up the fighting. The U.S. supported Juarez with the Monroe Doctrine (Demanded all European Powers leave North America). On May 15, 1862, Maximilian surrendered his Mexican Imperial Army and the sovereignty of Mexico was returned.

5 MAY 1862 CINCO DE MAYO

Benito Juarez, Pres of Mexico told the leaders of France, Spain, & England that the Mexican Gov't could not pay the loans, although this was a temporary condition. Emperor Napoleon III of France decided to invade Mexico. A French Prince, Maximilian and his wife Carlota came with a French Army

completely with Modern Equipment. They landed in Veracruz. They left the port, travelling inland to the capital, Mexico City. Texas born Gen. Zaragoza led the Mexican Cavalry, and when the French Army came to the fort of Puebla, about 100 miles east of Mexico City, the Mexican troops and the allied Indians fought them off. A few had rifles, but most had farm tools and machetes. The French charged 3 separate times and were defeated. An Army of

approx. 4000 had smashed the French Army of about 8,000, on the morning of May 5, 1862.

American Union forces were then rushed to the Texas/Mexico border under Gen. Phil Sheridan, who made sure that the Mexicans received all the weapons and ammunition they needed to repel the French. American soldiers were discharged with their uniforms & rifles if they promised to join the Mexican Army.

5 May 1862

Cinco de Mayo

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To the Mexicans, Mexican nationalism and self esteem began to develop for the 1st time in history.

San Zaragoza was from Saltillo, Texas. The Zaragoza Society sponsors the CINCO de MAYO Fiesta there at the downtown courthouse square.